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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/650,104	08/29/2000	Baskaran Dharmarajan	MSFT115430	9023

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EXAMINER

HOFFMAN, BRANDON S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2136

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/650,104

Applicant(s)

DHARMARAJAN, BASKARAN

Examiner

Brandon Hoffman

Art Unit

2136

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 August 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- On page 14, line 4, reference number 206 should be 306.
- On page 14, line 5, reference number 206 should be 308.

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

With regards to the abstract, the length exceeds 150 words. Please modify the abstract to be within the set limits.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Spies et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,689,565).

Regarding claim 16, Spies et al. teaches a computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, comprising:

- A first data field containing data representing a data length identifier and a tag type (fig. 9, ref. num 142); and
- A second data field containing configuration data of said tag type and having a length described by said data length identifier (fig. 9, ref. num 144).

Regarding claim 17, Spies et al. teaches wherein said data structure further comprises a plurality of additional data structures comprising one of said first data field and one of said second data field for a plurality of tags (col. 15, lines 63-67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-7 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shrader et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,374,359) in view of Quimby (U.S. Patent No. 5,367,573), and further in view of Hardy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,623,546).

Regarding claims 1, 12, and 14, Shrader et al. teaches a method/computer-readable medium/computer-controlled apparatus for storing session data on a client computer, comprising:

- Encrypting said encoded configuration data using an encryption key to create encrypted encoded configuration data (fig. 4, ref. num 82);
- Concatenating a secret, a length of the secret, and a length of the length of the secret with said encrypted encoded configuration data to form a session cookie (col. 7, lines 16-21, the secret is the password and the note of using other validation values suggests supplying the length of a field for verifying if the data has been changed. The act of supplying the length of the length of a field only adds more validation, therefore the extra validation fields are obvious); and
- Transmitting said session cookie to said client computer (fig. 3, ref. num 62).

Shrader et al. does not teach encoding said session data in a tag-length-value format to create encoded configuration data, or that the encryption key is modified.

Quimby teaches encoding said session data in a tag-length-value format to create encoded configuration data (col. 2, lines 56-67).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine encoding session data in a tag-length-value format, as taught by Quimby, with the method of Shrader et al. It would have been obvious to

combine encoding session data in a tag-length-value format, as taught by Quimby, with the method of Shrader et al. because the TLV format allows an arbitrary number of fields of arbitrary length to be encoded (see col. 3, lines 59-62 of Quimby).

Shrader et al. as modified by Quimby still does not teach that the encryption key is a modified encryption key.

Hardy et al. teaches the encryption key is a modified encryption key (fig. 2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine using a modified encryption key, as taught by Hardy et al., with the method of Shrader et al. as modified by Quimby. It would have been obvious to combine using a modified encryption key, as taught by Hardy et al., with the method of Shrader et al. as modified by Quimby because the modified encryption key allows the transfer of data between devices without the use of secure lines (see col. 2, lines 38-54 of Hardy et al.).

Regarding claims 2, 13, and 15, the combination of Shrader et al. as modified by Quimby and Hardy et al. teaches wherein said modified encryption key comprises a standard encryption key with said secret inserted at a predefined location (see fig. 2 of Hardy et al.).

Regarding claim 3, the combination of Shrader et al. as modified by Quimby and Hardy et al. teaches wherein said modified encryption key further comprises a time stamp indicating a time at which said modified encryption key is created (see col. 3, lines 34-53 of Quimby).

Regarding claim 4, the combination of Shrader et al. as modified by Quimby and Hardy et al. teaches further comprising:

- Requesting said session cookie from said client computer (see fig. 5, ref. num 90 of Shrader et al.);
- Receiving said session cookie from said client computer (see fig. 5, ref. num 90 of Shrader et al.);
- Extracting said secret from said session cookie (see fig. 5, ref. num 98 of Shrader et al.);
- Creating said modified encryption key by inserting said secret extracted from said session cookie into said standard encryption key at said predefined location (see fig. 3 and col. 6, lines 18-36 of Hardy et al.); and
- Decrypting said session data from said cookie using said modified encryption key (see fig. 5, ref. num 94 of Shrader et al.).

Regarding claim 5, the combination of Shrader et al. as modified by Quimby and Hardy et al. teaches further comprising:

- Decoding a tag from said session data (see fig. 5, ref. num 92 of Shrader et al.);

- Determining whether said tag comprises a valid tag (see fig. 5, ref. num 96 and 98 of Shrader et al); and
- In response to determining that said tag comprises a valid tag, configuring said server using data contained in said tag (see fig. 5, ref. num 100 of Shrader et al.).

Regarding claim 6, the combination of Shrader et al. as modified by Quimby and Hardy et al. teaches further comprising:

- In response to determining that said tag does not comprise a valid tag, determining whether additional tags remain to be decoded from said encoded configuration data (see fig. 5, ERROR of Shrader et al.); and
- In response to determining that additional tags remain to be decoded, decoding a next tag and determining whether said next tag comprises a valid tag (see fig. 5, ref. num 92, 96, and 98 of Shrader et al.).

Because the Shrader et al. reference was modified by the Quimby reference to include TLV, the decoding step of Shrader et al. will now decode multiple tags, instead of just the one cookie as displayed in the Shrader et al. reference. The modification demands the steps of processing every set of tag-length-value parameter that belongs to the entire session data. This means instead of producing ERROR, as shown in figure 5 of Shrader et al., the modification now checks the next set of TLV values.

Regarding claim 7, the combination of Shrader et al. as modified by Quimby and Hardy et al. teaches further comprising: in response to determining that said next tag comprises a valid tag, configuring said server using data contained in said next tag (see fig. 5, ref. num 100 of Shrader et al.).

Claims 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shrader et al. (U.S. PN '359) as modified by Quimby (U.S. PN '573) and Hardy et al. (U.S. PN '546), and further in view of Becker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,557,038).

Regarding claim 8, the combination of Shrader et al. as modified by Quimby and Hardy et al. teaches all the limitations of claims 1-7 above. However, the combination of Shrader et al. as modified by Quimby and Hardy et al. does not teach further comprising: in response to determining that additional tags do not remain to be decoded, periodically authenticating said session cookie.

Becker et al. teaches further comprising: in response to determining that additional tags do not remain to be decoded, periodically authenticating said session cookie (fig. 12).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine periodically authenticating said session cookie if additional tags do not remain, as taught by Becker et al., with the method of Shrader et

al. as modified by Quimby and Hardy et al. It would have been obvious to combine periodically authenticating said session cookie if additional tags do not remain, as taught by Becker et al., with the method of Shrader et al. as modified by Quimby and Hardy et al. because the periodic authentication would enable the user to remain connected to the server. This would allow the user to not have to login repeatedly and also keep other third parties from accessing the data that was transferred between the user and the server.

Regarding claim 9, the combination of Shrader et al. as modified by Quimby and Hardy et al., and further in view of Becker et al. teaches wherein periodically authenticating said session cookie comprises:

- Starting a session timer (see fig. 12, ref. num 1202 of Becker et al.);
- Determining whether said session timer has elapsed (see fig. 12, ref. num 1204 of Becker et al.); and
- In response to determining that said session timer has elapsed (see fig. 12, ref. num 1206 of Becker et al.),
 - Requesting said session cookie from said client computer (see fig. 5, ref. num 90 of Shrader et al.),
 - Decrypting and decoding a tag contained in said session cookie (see fig. 5, ref. num 92 and 94 of Shrader et al.), and
 - Determining whether said tag comprises a valid tag (see fig. 5, ref. num 96 and 98 of Shrader et al.).

Regarding claim 10, the combination of Shrader et al. as modified by Quimby and Hardy et al., and further in view of Becker et al. teaches further comprising:

- In response to determining that said tag comprises a valid tag,
 - Generating a new session cookie (see fig. 4, ref. num 80 of Shrader et al.),
 - Transmitting said new session cookie to said client computer (see fig. 3, ref. num 62 of Shrader et al.), and
 - Resetting said session timer (see fig. 11, ref. num 1104 of Becker et al.).

Regarding claim 11, the combination of Shrader et al. as modified by Quimby and Hardy et al., and further in view of Becker et al. teaches further comprising: in response to determining that said tag does not comprise a valid tag, ending a communications session between said server computer and said client computer (see fig. 10, ref. num 1004 of Becker et al.).

Claims 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spies et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,689,565).

Regarding claim 18, Spies et al. teaches wherein said data length identifier comprises the first two bits of said first data field (col. 16, lines 6-7).

It would have been obvious to change the 'fixed-size' field from 32-bit to 2-bit, or any other size, as long as the field data remained fixed.

Regarding claim 19, Spies et al. teaches wherein said data length identifier comprises data indicating that the length of said second data field is one byte (col. 16, lines 10-14).

Regarding claim 20, Spies et al. teaches wherein said data length identifier comprises data indicating that the length of said second data field is four bytes (col. 16, lines 10-14).

Regarding claim 21, Spies et al. teaches wherein said data length identifier comprises data indicating that said tag type comprises an extended tag type (col. 16, lines 10-14).

It would have been obvious to indicate the length of the second data field is one byte or four bytes. Spies et al. teaches that the field is variable (meaning it can be different, i.e., one byte or four bytes) and that it is an exact byte count of the data contained in the value field.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brandon Hoffman whose telephone number is 703-305-4662. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 703-305-9648. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

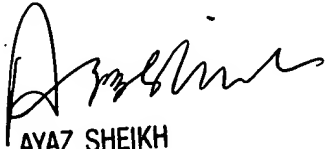
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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Branda Huff

BH
3/17/04


AYAZ SHEIKH
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